

***The Institution of Engineers, Australia: Sydney Division
Monaro Group***

Oral History Program: Biographical Notes

**Darcy WALSH (1924 -)
Civil Engineer**

Birth & Family: Darcy Walsh was born on 10th April 1924 in Ryde, NSW. Father and Mother were from the country.

He married Aileen in 1950.

Education:

Qualifications: B.E. (Civil) University of Sydney, 1946.

Memberships: FIEAust.

Member, Hydrological Society, Canberra.

Awards: The Warren Memorial Prize, IEAust. 1956 (jointly with E.B. Pender and D. Anderson)

Work History: After graduation Walsh became a design engineer for the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission, NSW. Over the next 4 years, he worked on the design of features of large dams like Burrinjuck and Wyangla Dams as well as small irrigation structures and farm dams.

In 1950 he joined the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Authority working on hydrology and field investigations. Working out of Sydney, Walsh was engaged in operational studies and provided hydrology reports for Guthega Dam, the first project of the scheme.

He attended in-service training with the Project Planning and Design and Construction Divisions of the United States Bureau of Reclamation in 1952.

On his return to Australia he was placed in charge of the Analysis Section of Hydrology Branch based in Cooma until 1955, when he was promoted to head the entire Hydrology Branch. He was responsible for the collection of data for the hydrological analysis of the Snowy Mountains scheme. Major special studies included large-scale experiments on cloud seeding, and evaporation measurements from reservoirs, in conjunction with the CSIRO.

From 1960 to 1970, Walsh was in charge of the Field Investigation Division. He was responsible for the services of the Hydrology, Survey and Diamond Drilling Branches required for investigation, design and construction of the Snowy Scheme. Particular attention was given to pioneering work in catchment protection and aspects of drainage on a large scale. Walsh moved to the newly-formed Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation in 1970, assuming the position of Chief Engineer, Engineering Services. He was responsible for provision of specialist engineering services of survey, geology, hydrology, diamond drilling, computing, fluid mechanics, geomechanics and materials laboratories and other technical services.

These services were provided for engineering projects around Australia and overseas including work in Malaysia, Indonesia, New Guinea, Mauritius and Africa.

Walsh was also responsible for research projects and studies in Australia and overseas including Brazil, Nepal and Tanzania. Notable among these was a Mathematical Model of the Hydrological Regime of the Upper Nile for the World Meteorological Organisation.

(I don't suppose we know when he retired?)

(The font and point size of footnotes seems to vary between Pattie and the others)

Prepared by Michelle Keatinge, July 2003 from oral history interviews conducted by Matthew Higgins on 26.2.99.